Canada Sends Message of Condolence to the People of Indonesia

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The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of International Cooperation and Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages, today expressed Canada's condolences to those affected by the earthquakes that took place on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of today's earthquake and its devastating impact on the communities in the area of West Sumatra, Indonesia," said Minister MacKay. "I wish to extend our sympathies to the families and friends of those affected by this disaster. Canada stands ready to assist the Government of Indonesia in response to needs identified."

Canada has set aside $250,000 through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to support local organizations in responding to immediate needs in the affected area. The Canadian Embassy in Indonesia will also deploy an official to the region to provide consular assistance to any Canadians as required and to help identify areas where Canada may be best placed to assist.

"This contribution by the Government of Canada will help provide direct relief to those people most affected by the earthquake in Indonesia," said Minister Verner. "We are deeply concerned about the current humanitarian situation and will continue to monitor developments in the area."

Canadian officials will continue to be in close contact with the Government of Indonesia and international relief agencies present on the ground as they assess the needs of those affected and clarify how best the international community should respond.

- 30 -

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